Learning and Information Services

Literature Searching in Computing

These are the main search tools for finding computing journal articles, books and theses. It is recommended that you focus on using LibrarySearch, the ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore Digital Library, Computer Source and Scopus in the first instance. This will help ensure that your searches are comprehensive, covering all the literature available to you (via LibrarySearch). By creating complex searches with the most appropriate search terms you will get the most relevant articles.

Here are some of the relative merits of the main search tools, accessible via http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/computing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Tool</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Features*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LibrarySearch</td>
<td>Searches all the University’s paid-for databases, ejournals, books and ebooks. Cross-subject searching. Links out to full text of many articles online and ebooks.</td>
<td>Keyword search box - limit by format, e.g. print books or e-books. Use inverted commas for “phrase searching”</td>
<td>RefWorks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACM Digital Library</td>
<td>Full text access to Association for Computing Machinery journals and conference papers from 1985 to the present.</td>
<td>Advanced search allows complex combinations of subject terms and limits.</td>
<td>Personal account, RefWorks, Search alerts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEEE Xplore Digital Library</td>
<td>Full text access to the world’s highest quality technical article and conference papers in engineering and technology.</td>
<td>Advanced search allows complex combinations of subject terms and limits.</td>
<td>Personal account, RefWorks, Search alerts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Source</td>
<td>Journal articles, conference papers and current trends in high technology.</td>
<td>Advanced search allows complex combinations of subject terms and limits.</td>
<td>Personal account, RefWorks, Search alerts</td>
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<tr>
<td>ProQuest Dissertations &amp; Theses: UK &amp; Ireland</td>
<td>Comprehensive listing of UK &amp; Ireland higher education theses, with abstracts. Check if EThOS has full-text access.</td>
<td>Searching by keyword, author or institution available in advanced search.</td>
<td>RefWorks, Search Alerts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>Huge abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed research literature. Includes graphical analysis</td>
<td>Advanced search allows complex combinations of subject terms and limits.</td>
<td>RefWorks</td>
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*Features : RefWorks – references can be downloaded into our reference management software (see below) Personal accounts – e.g. "My Account" or "My Folder" enable you to save your searches and documents, and set up alerts. Search alerts - automatic emails sent from a database, notifying you of new documents that meet your search parameters.

Note: Check for full text You will find this symbol in many of our databases. If full text isn’t immediately available, click on this symbol to check whether the University has access to the full-text.
Finding Theses
It is important to consider searching for Doctoral theses on your topic, as a source of information or to look at the layout of a thesis. Most importantly you need to establish what work has already been completed in your topic area.

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| ProQuest Dissertations & Theses: UK & Ireland     | Most comprehensive listing of UK & Ireland higher education theses.  
Some full-text available. | Search by keyword, author, institution in advanced search.  
‘Link to full text’ where shown. | RefWorks  
Search Alerts                      |
| British Library EThOS Service http://ethos.bl.uk/ | Listing of UK higher education theses, giving access to many full-text.  
Possible to request a thesis be digitised if it is not already online. | Advanced search available.  
Login to save/request full-text.    |                                         |

Finding Open Access Resources
It is becoming increasingly important that you consider searching for full-text resources made available through subject or institutional open access repositories. These may give you access to e.g. full-text articles, PhD theses or government document archives not available to you elsewhere. Useful sources include:

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<td>WIRE - Wolverhampton Intellectual Repository and E-Theses <a href="http://wlv.openrepository.com/wlv">http://wlv.openrepository.com/wlv</a></td>
<td>Growing collection of research outputs from the University of Wolverhampton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OpenDOAR – the Directory of Open Access Repositories <a href="http://www.opendoar.org">http://www.opendoar.org</a></td>
<td>Directory of academic open access repositories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Education Resource Archive (DERA) <a href="http://dera.ioe.ac.uk">http://dera.ioe.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Archive of documents published electronically by government and other bodies in the areas of education, training, children and families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAIster <a href="http://www.oclc.org/oaister">http://www.oclc.org/oaister</a></td>
<td>Catalogue of resources from open-archive collections worldwide</td>
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Platforms for sharing research, such as ResearchGate www.researchgate.net and Academia www.academia.edu may also give you access to the full-text of documents that you require. Articles may be linked to researcher profiles. You will need to register on these sites to use them.

What about Google Scholar?
Google Scholar is a quick way to find journal articles, but you should not rely on this alone. Access Google Scholar via the Subject Resources page at http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/resources to ensure you are logged in to access the full-text of any of the University’s full-text journals you locate in your searches.

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| Google Scholar | Will return results from open access repositories.  
Covers pre-prints of articles and un-reviewed articles as well as peer-reviewed articles. | Hard to refine your search and limited ways to sort the thousands of results. | RefWorks                                |
Constructing Searches
You will need to experiment with your searches to find the most appropriate subject terms or keywords for your topic.

When searching, you need to consider combining your terms with either and, or or not, to include or exclude concepts. Many databases offer other features e.g.

- Alternative terms (synonyms)
- Alternative spellings (e.g. behaviour/behavior)
- Broader terms (if you find insufficient information on your precise topic)
- Geographical limits (does your search need to be UK specific)
- Date limits?
- Format limits – e.g. peer reviewed articles only to exclude magazines
- Language limit – e.g. English only
- Truncation searching to include variants e.g. motiv* for motivation, motivating
- Wildcard searching e.g. type ne?t to find all citations containing neat, nest or next or type colo#r to find all citations containing color or colour.
- Proximity searching – consider using the Near Operator (N) (using N5 finds the words if they are within five words of one another regardless of the order in which they appear e.g. technology N5 education) or the Within Operator (W) (using W5 finds the words if they are within five words of one another and in the order in which you entered them e.g. technology W5 education).

Setting Search Alerts/Keeping Up to Date
If you are undertaking research over a period of months it may be worth setting up search alerts, so you are informed when new journal articles are published in your area of interest. Alerts can be received by email or RSS feeds. This can be done through the databases as listed above, or through Zetoc http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk/ or JournalTOCs http://www.journaltoc.s.hw.ac.uk/. See http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/research for further guidance.

Reference Management
It is possible to save references from the above databases into reference management software such as RefWorks. RefWorks can also be used to format your bibliography in the Harvard Referencing style. If you are interested in using RefWorks see http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/refworks, which includes information on workshops.

Found a Reference but Can’t Access it?
If you have identified a useful journal article or book, but don’t think we have it online or in print in the library, you can request a copy via our Inter-Library Loan service. See http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/interloan for advice on these services.

Need Further Assistance?
If you would like further help, please contact the Liaison Librarian team via LISliaison@wlv.ac.uk or 01902 323648.

To request this document in an alternative format please contact LISliaison@wlv.ac.uk